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Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know when the tour programme was communicated to the Municipal Council, Calicut, and when the invitation to the hon. the Minister was issued ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I have said in the answer, my tour programme was communicated about three weeks before I went on tour and the invitation was received on the morning I arrived at Calicut."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" My question was not when it was *received*, but when it was *issued* by the municipality ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not aware when the thing was issued by the municipality."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether an invitation is essential to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to visit the premier municipality in the district ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I let them know when I am coming. That is all my business."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I ask whether the Chairman of the Municipal Council did not wait for him at the railway station and tell him that the municipal council would wait for him for three hours in the evening if he would find at least five minutes to go over there ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" My programme was full as I said in the answer."

Tours of the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government.

*1320 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement of the tours made by him and the cost of each up to the 31st December 1928 ; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) the object of each tour ;

(*b*) whether the places visited had not been seen by the hon. the Minister before ;

(*c*) whether a personal visit and inspection was absolutely necessary ; and

(*d*) whether a report from the head of the department concerned was not found sufficient as to the requirements of the several places or institutions visited by him ?

A.—(i) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of question No. 296, dated 8th September 1928. Subsequently two tours were made, viz.,

(1) to Thirthamalai and Ootacamund, and

(2) to the West Coast (Malabar and South Kanara districts).

The cost of the tours from 1st April 1928 to 31st December 1928 as reported by the Accountant-General, Madras, is Rs. 5,532-0-9.

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(ii) (a) Visits to educational, local self-government and panchayat institutions and deputations of public bodies and institutions with a view to come into touch with local conditions and grievances.
(b) Some had been visited before and some not.
(c) Yes.
(d) No.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I ask whether in these tours the hon. Minister makes propaganda for his party?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"No, Sir."

Village Panchayats

Formation of the Nagandur Village Panchayat.

* 1321 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a village panchayat has been formed in the village of Nagandur (including the cheri there), Gingee taluk;

(b) if so, when and how many members constitute the panchayat;

(c) the caste or castes to which these members belong;

(d) whether there was an election before the formation of the panchayat;

(e) if so, who conducted the election; and

(f) whether due notice of the election was given to the Christians and Adi-Dravidas and whether the formation of the village panchayat was made known to the residents of the above village, and how?

A.—(a) Yes.
(b) The panchayat was constituted on 8th December 1926 with a strength of nine members.
(c) All the members are caste Hindus.
(d) Yes.
(e) The former President of the Tindivanam Taluk Board M.R.Ry. A. V. Srinivasalu Reddiyar conducted the election.
(f) The notice of the date of elections was published in the village and cheri on 22nd February 1927 (the date of election being 5th March 1927) by beat of drum and by affixing copies of the notice in conspicuous places.

The order directing the constitution of the panchayat was published by beat of drum in the village and its hamlets on 14th January 1927.

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—"In view of the untouchability existing in the villages, does the village officer inform these people by beat of drum?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Well, Sir, they have been asked to announce it by beat of drum. I believe they are doing it."